

HACKNEY HECKLER

JANUARY '93
No.12

TAKING THINGS ONE STEP FURTHER

FREE

CRACKPOT

By Dee Campbell

The venerable Guild of Fine Powder Purveyors has been rocked to its core by corruption allegations concerning some of its members in a north London branch. As many as 25 dealers in Stoke Newington are alleged to have been involved in policing.

"DEALER X"

Suggestions that dealers have given information to police officers are nothing new, but the Guild is currently investigating allegations that go much further - one dealer is alleged to have been earning as much as £2,000 a month as a police officer. The dealer, who can only be referred to as "Dealer X" for life insurance reasons, was named in the confession of self-styled "honest cop" PC Dick Sonofdockgreen. The self-confessed "woodentop" claimed he saw Dealer X:

- Arresting people
- Giving evidence
- Drinking with known "officers"
- Wearing a brown leather jacket, blue jeans, and new white trainers.

Mr. Bigg, the Guild's president told us that an investigation, code-named "Operation Crackpot", has been ongoing for 18 months. However, Roy Nark, head of Stoke Newington's Guild Branch denied there



Dealers approach a young Hackney mother outside the Stoke Newington shop

was any truth in the story: *"These allegations have been made by self-confessed police officers - they are absolute rubbish"*. Admitting the investigation had lowered morale amongst the area's dealers, he said, *"How can my men provide a service to the public with this hanging over them, knowing every time they make a sale they may be accused of being police officers"*.

COVER-UP

Hugh Sless, the civilian member of the Pushers Complaints Authority (P.C.A.) overseeing the investigation, said: *"I am absolutely determined there must be a cover-up, the truth must not come out. These are seriously allegations and if we find anyone is guilty of being a witness to them, we must put them*

away for a long time."

A World Inaction investigation into the scandal will also throw light on the role of a young mother from Stoke Newington, Diane Abbott, who has allegedly been operating as an MP for 5 years. Shocked neighbours told them, *"We had no idea, she seemed so nice. We got a bit suspicious when she paid her Poll-Tax, and there were a lot of foreign trips - but we thought she was just running drugs"*.

Speaking through a solicitor Ms. Abbott told them: *"Politicians are scum; as a local woman with a young child I know only too well how concerned parents are about the menace posed by MPs. I shall certainly sue, I have never represented Stoke Newington at Westminster and I never would."*

NEWS

IN THEIR WORDS

★ A recent confidential report from Mike 'Cassanova' Craig made clear the council's priorities for the next year. In it is the bland statement: *"There will be some scope for reducing the staffing establishment in Payroll as a result of staffing reduction which all directorates are likely to be making next year"*. So it looks like compulsory redundancies all around - and the services that we need further down the drain.

But there is one area of growth (apart from Mike's salary). In his words: *"I consider that the Audit Inspectorate is the one area within my budget where growth is required"*. So lots more investigating so-called 'fraud' while services collapse. But the Town Hall bosses can boast of their "drive against fraud" to draw our attention from their continual series of cock-ups.★

COMRADES

★ In the Prince George recently, after a few beers, Councillor Jon Burnell was holding forth about Tommy 'The Vamp' Shepherd: *"The trouble with Tommy is that he's got no political ideas beyond furthering of his own career"*.

Now if Hackney's labour councillors hate each other so much is it any wonder we hate them too?★

OVERDUE

★ We've been informed that Chair of the Leisure Services Committee, Andy Buttress has not been returning his library books. And not from one but three different libraries! We think that it's about time that Andy returned his books, especially as he has just issued a memo to the hard pressed library workers that stops them from taking out too many library books. One rule for them and one rule for us perhaps? And while we're on the subject of Andy, he should pay up his poll tax before the bailiffs come knocking again. After all, it's Andy and the rest his Labour mates constantly ordering us to pay ours.★

YES SIR...

Talk about getting down on your belly! Council leader John McCafferty has now had the guts to invite Tory Housing Minister, Sir George Young, to come and speak in the Town Hall at 6pm on January 21st.

This upper class toff is best known for his reference to the homeless as, *"the sort of people you step on when you come out of the opera"*, to which he added, *"the Government's efforts to help the rough sleeper are a widely acknowledged success."*

The snob will speak for up to 2 hours on the 'Government's Urban Policy.' What policy? Chaos, cuts in road repairs, cuts in housebuilding, cuts in jobs... It's the equivalent of a butcher speaking on vegetarianism.

Knowing full well that local people might like to ask some difficult questions John 'always-the-democrat' McCafferty has made the event ticket only. So, Sir George Young won't have to answer why the Tories have halved the councils capital spending programme from £79 million in 1989/90 to just £38 million in 1992/3, thus producing more urban decay! And he won't have to talk about the cockroaches, the failure to build any new houses...and nor will McCafferty.

McCafferty is now a great pal of Sir George, having drunk champagne together celebrating the granting of a mere £7.5 million a year, for 5 years, to Hackney under the City Challenge bid. But as we know, what the Tories give with one hand they take back with the other. So in December they announced massive cuts in Section 11 Funding,

threatening 300 local jobs, and causing McCafferty to whimper about *"the dire impact on jobs and service delivery."*

The Tories also told the Council they were cutting the Inner City Partnership programme by £3.7 million in 1993/4, leaving less money for street lighting, cycle routes, making buildings accessible for people with disabilities, etc, and destroying almost all the local summer playschemes.

McCafferty and Co joined in, announcing their very own cuts of £1,150,000 in the voluntary sector; ending the funding of Hackney Under-5's and Under-8's, the Pakistan Welfare Association, the Roots Pool and the Trade Union Support Unit, plus imposing massive cuts on Centerprise, the Claudia Jones Womens' Project, and many others.

Sir George Young should be made aware we don't need his pompous lectures, so this beano will be picketed. And, if you'd have liked to ask Sir George a question, or just want to know why you weren't invited, you can phone Shan Nicholas on 071 490 1600 ext2262.

The Leader of Hackney Council, Councillor John McCafferty, is pleased to invite you to the launch of

INNER CITY FOCUS

A SERIES OF LECTURES ON URBAN POLICY ISSUES

on Thursday 21 January 1993 from 6 to 8pm at Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA (accessible to people with disabilities)

Sir George Young MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning will speak on THE GOVERNMENT'S URBAN POLICY

Refreshments from 7.30pm

RSPV

Shan Nicholas, Head of Training and Development

London Borough of Hackney

Lawrence House, 238 City Road

London EC1V 2PR © 071 490 1600 x2262

HACKNEY COUNCIL

Working for local people

employment rights
fighting racial harassment
immigration
policing
squatting
poll tax
housing
education
trade union rights
social security

ADVICE SURGERIES

starting
TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY
and
FIRST & THIRD TUESDAYS
OF EACH MONTH
thereafter
6.30 - 8.30 PM
at the
COLIN ROACH CENTRE
10a Bradbury St, Dalston, N16

NO SIR, NO WAY!

An unemployed poll-tax non-payer was recently fed false information when summonsed to Thames Magistrates Court. He'd wanted to challenge his arrears with the magistrate, but in the court building he was directed to Hackney Council Community Charge staff. They said that he could pay £5 per week, making out it was the least anyone could pay. They also used threats that he could be imprisoned.

The non-payer refused, and only then did it turn out that the maximum they can legally take from people on income support is £2.10 per week with a liability order. This wasn't mentioned in any literature, nor said by any staff, and quite a few people at the court were tricked into agreeing to losing £5, deducted weekly from their dole. Hackney Council again show themselves to be spineless cheats, taking money off the poor.

If you are on income support, the most they can take out is £2.10 per week. If you do go to court, make it clear you know this, and stick to your guns.

COLIN ROACH



Colin Roach was shot dead in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station on the night of Wednesday January 12th 1983.

The police immediately spread false stories that a young black man with a "history of mental instability" had shot himself. Members of Colin's family were treated with contempt undeserving of grieving relatives.

The community responded with two spontaneous demonstrations and a highly effective campaign against police racism and injustice. Among the Roach Family Support Committee's achievements:

- organised four demonstrations
- Hackney Council voted against paying the police precept
- trade unions backed a 'break links' policy and community organisations refused to co-operate with the police
- exposed the inquest system as a rubber stamp for police explanations for deaths in custody

tions for deaths in custody

● commissioned an authoritative report into Colin's death and policing in Hackney.

The police tried to beat the campaign off the streets. 80 people, including Colin's father, James Roach, were arrested on five demonstrations within two months of his death.

Ten years on the importance of the campaign is clear. The police's official cover up failed. The community believes somebody shot Colin Roach and the police have to answer for it.

It is fitting that on the tenth anniversary of Colin Roach's death that a centre is opened in his name. It is in tribute to his family and a campaign which represented an important step forward in the struggle against oppression.

INNOCENT

Another worker, sacked in the council's so-called "crackdown on fraud" has had his name cleared. This time, the council didn't even dare to go in front of an Industrial Tribunal: They settled out of court, giving the man £5000 and good references. John MacCafferty, declared *"the paying of compensation should not be seen as the council throwing in the towel"*. It all shows that the council have (yet again) completely cocked-up and wasted more of our money.

More cases are coming up soon, and we expect the workers involved to be totally cleared. Of course, this caring council won't give them their jobs back.

Solid workers' action could achieve that. And recent strike action has shown people won't take much more, so there's hope.

OFF THE BACK OF A LARRY?

We all know corruption is rife in Hackney. The triumvirate running Hackney - cops, local businessmen and Labour councillors - grin at us from the pages of the Hackney Gazette, the non-campaigning paper which doesn't care.

Several people have recently contacted the Heckler with lurid tales about corruption in the council. So, our team of investigators is about to delve into the murky past.

If you know anything about golden handshakes to Labour Party members, dodgy contracts, employees sacked to be silenced, keys for cash (yawn!), or especially about Larry Lobjoie, get in touch with the Heckler and help stick the boot into the Hackney Council Mafiosi.

DISCUSSION EVENINGS AT THE COLIN ROACH CENTRE EVERY THURSDAY AT 7.30PM.

- 21st January - 'Organising Together: Women and Men, Black and White, with and without disabilities, waged and unwaged...'
- 28th January - 'Re-building rank and file committees in the trade unions.'
- 4th February - 'Is there racism in housing in Hackney?'
- 11th February - 'The Politics of Food and Health.'
- 18th February - 'Is Turkey a democratic state?'
- 25th February - 'Can the Police be reformed?'
- 4th March - 'Is Sport Political?'
- 11th March - 'Is there a case for Kurdistan?'

The discussion meetings will aim to explore the above topics in a manner which is non-sexist, anti-racist and progressive. Everyone is welcome, there is no cost but you might like to bring a few pence for tea and/or coffee. Come along to as many as you want.

VIDEO EVENINGS AT THE COLIN ROACH CENTRE

Monday 8th February - Making the best of TV: local people discuss TV coverage of political campaigns and issues in which they had a personal involvement. Policing, squatting, anti-fascism, housing are amongst the topics covered.

Monday 22nd February - 'And I Know Why I Stand Here.' 90 minute video made by anti-fascist/racist football supporters of German Club F.C. St. Pauli, followed by discussion.

★ Hackney Heckler is a bi-monthly free newsheet produced by members of the Colin Roach Centre.

★ We all live or work in Hackney, and are sick of what we see around us. We want to do something about it. The Heckler aims to encourage struggle for a decent life for all.

★ We welcome contributions and reports - what's happening on your estate? Which councillors, politicians and cops are corrupt? Who's the worst boss in Hackney?

★ We also welcome donations and help with distribution (we currently give out 10,000).

★ If you want to guarantee getting the next issue send us an S.A.E.

★ Write to us at:

Hackney Heckler,
P.O. Box 824, London N1 9DL.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Special Team Awards

For Services To Anarchism

STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE "CRACK" SQUAD for their selfless contribution to the breakdown of law and order.

For Services To Capitalism

HACKNEY COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP for their unflinching support for developing enterprise combined with their spectacular destruction of local services.

For Services To Ignorance

To the three stooges of the **HACKNEY GAZETTE PRODUCTION TEAM**, seeing nothing, hearing nothing and saying nothing, and charging us 28p for the privilege.

International Solidarity Award

HACKNEY TRADES UNION COUNCIL for sending two delegates to Turkey who met the Mayor of Kartal only weeks after he had sent the police to break up a council workers' strike, leaving 20 wounded when the police opened fire on them.

Industrial Harmony Award

HACKNEY JOINT SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE for having jointly done nothing at all together to upset anyone, least of all the Council bosses.

For Services To The Anti Poll-Tax Movement

STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY CHARGE OFFICE for mistakenly giving out the phone number of a squat in Stamford Hill as their office number.

Services To The Media

DIANE ABBOTT for only ever doing anything if the papers and TV are there to see.

For Long Suffering

BRIAN SEDGEMORE. In over five years he has not once spoken out against Ms. Abbott, some say his parliamentary colleague, and also for cycling around every pothole in Hackney.

The Family Values Award

LINDA HIBBERD, Chair of Housing, for rescuing her son and other family members from the bottom of the Waiting List, and installing them and herself in very nice homes.

Unprincipled Trade Unionism

JOHN M^CCAFFERTY for not letting his membership of the National Union of Teachers hinder the council in sacking teachers.

The Free Enterprise Award

LINDA BELLOS for taking the redundancy money, and going back to work for the council, doing the same job as a consultant earning 4 times as much as before.

Bloodsucking Chameleon Award

TOMMY SHEPHERD for keeping his mouth shut when the Stokey Cokey scandal broke, despite having embarked on his political career in the Community Alliance For Police Accountability.

Headbanger Of The Year Award

CHIEF SUPT ROY CLARK for repeatedly insisting that nothing was wrong at Stokey Coke-shop, and then quitting for criminal intelligence.

Individual Honours

Police Flexibility Award

D.C. ROY LEWANDOWSKI wins for being bent enough to be convicted of theft, charged with V.A.T. fraud, and for supplying hard drugs.

Justice Award

SGT. GERRARD CARROLL for getting the right man. When he shot himself (if in fact it was he) many people felt safe to leave their homes again.

Milk Tray Award

CHIEF SUPT BERNARD TAFFS for giving chocolates and flowers to a family mistakenly raided by armed police.

Professionals In Publicity- Grabbing Award

MARTIN SHAW for actually speaking to Stokey Cokey about his noisy neighbours, and posing menacingly on the front page of the Gazette.

Extreme Loyalty Award

CLLR. MEDLIN LEWIS for spending a whole year in the same party.

Even-Less-Caring-Than-McCafferty Award

LORD TOMLINSON for deciding we don't need Barts anymore.

Three-Bags-Full Award

SIR GEORGE YOUNG for getting the maximum from the Council with the minimum of resistance.

Brown Trousers Award

JOHN M^CCAFFERTY for what he does every time he hears the name *Larry Lobjoie*.